

Volunteer Program with Japanese University students 2017

Study tour by students of Keio University

SWYAA-India organized the study tour of 18 Japanese students from Keio University, Tokyo who were accompanied by two professors from the department of Business and Commerce from 11th to 15th September 2017 in New Delhi and Bihar in collaboration with DISHA and 'Jeevika' rural livelihood program of the Government of Bihar



This study tour to India was aimed at studying the current economic situation and rural public health in India in the context of education of children, women's empowerment and livelihood opportunities. The students also had interest to understand the differences between the economies of various countries around the globe in relation to Japan. With this special interest they requested SWYAA-India organized an interaction with the children of SWYAA Open schools, students of the Municipal Corporation Primary Schools. The Japanese students were divided in eight groups and each group was given one section each with forty girl students studying in standard V. The Japanese students introduced various aspects of Japanese culture to these children through songs, familiar phrases, cartoon characters and Origami.



Later during their visit to the Open Schools the students mentored the children and taught those Japanese songs, counting, painting, Origami before going for a slum walk and meeting the community.



From 12-15 September they visited the rural villages in Bodhgaya block in Bihar in coordination with the Project called 'Jeevika' (Bihar Rural Livelihoods Project) of state government and World Bank for enhancing social and economic empowerment of the rural poor. After they were given an orientation about the Jeevika project, the student participated in the meetings of women's self- help group. The representative from that the Jeevika accompanied them during the interaction and gave a presentation about their activities to promote self-reliance and livelihood opportunities being provided due to such a large scale program.



They had an opportunity to observe the implementation of the project in the areas of health and nutrition, social protection, rural employment and agriculture and other components of the ongoing Bihar Rural Livelihoods Project.



The Japanese students had a firsthand experience and understanding of the day to day struggle of underprivileged communities to cope up with the existing economic conditions in India. They appreciated the efforts of SWYAA-India in serving the deprived children and youth and got inspired to take voluntary actions for helping others. It was an important activity organized by SWYAA-India with Japanese youth who also got firsthand information about the SWY Leaders program of the Cabinet Office of Japan.

Field visit by students of University of Tokyo

In September 12 students studying liberal arts at the University of Tokyo visited SWYAA Open Schools in Delhi. They belong to a Non-Profit Organization called MIS (Multilateral Interaction with Students) in Japan.



MIS is carrying out projects at about one or two times a year with students from Southeast and South Asia in 7 countries including Cambodia, Vietnam, Philippines, Burma (Myanmar), Indonesia, India and Malaysia . In addition, they regularly

conduct projects a year for each project team, prepare the project, and learn management methods to facilitate the project smoothly.

The purpose of their visit was to give a short introduction of their organization, in MIS, discuss social problems with students in Delhi and then do projects to work to solve these problems. We gave an overview on about SWY leaders program and the post program activities by SWYAA-India. They were very happy to learn about SWY program.

They interacted with the children and the community members and discussed about the possibility of volunteer project in collaboration with SWYAA-India next year for improving the educational environment in Open Schools with the support they could generate in Japan.

Through this, we gave them an opportunity to gain insight and to help them to grow themselves as future leaders to pull the world beyond the fence of the country and to do the seeding for the future.



We would be starting a joint volunteering project between SWYAA-India and MIS in 2018. The components of the project would involve teaching by professional volunteers, conducting workshop on Japanese culture and improving educational environment for students of SWYAA open school.
